

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted prior to continued examination of the present application and is responsive to the official action that issued on July 5, 2005. Claims 1-7 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-7 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 have been amended. Claims 1-7 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1-7 are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

\$102 and \$103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. \$102(e) as being anticipated by Behzad et al. (US Patent No. 6,472,940).

Claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. \$103(a) as being unpatentable over Behzad

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. \$103(a) as being unpatentable over Behzad in view of Rowser et al. (US Patent No. 6,917,336).

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. \$103(a) as being unpatentable over Behzad in view of Kakuta et al. (US Patent No. 6,028,487).

Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims (claims 1, 2, 6, and 7) are patentable over Behzad, Rowser, and Kakuta.

Applicants' invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a variable-gain amplifier. Each of the claims recites that the amplifier includes "a plurality of voltage control means". Each of the claims further recites that "the plurality of voltage control means include[es] at least a first voltage control means and a second voltage control means, the first voltage control means and the second voltage control

means being responsive to a voltage source such that the minimum voltage source output at which the first voltage control means produces an output voltage is less than the minimum voltage source output at which the second voltage control means produces an output voltage." Supporting disclosure for the first and second voltage control means can be found in the specification at, for example, page 17, line 21 - page 18, line 22; and Figs. 2 and 4.

Neither Behzad, Rowser, nor Kakuta discloses voltage control means as recited by Applicants. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 are patentable over Behzad, Rowser, and Kakuta - taken either alone or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further, Applicants submit that the dependent claims 3-5 are patentable over Behzad, Rowser, and Kakuta for at least the same reasons as discussed in connection with claims 1, 2, and 6.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Application No.: 10/526,758

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-325

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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Respectfully submitted,

By B. Polito  
Bruno Polito

Registration No.: 38,580  
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,  
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP  
600 South Avenue West  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
(908) 654-5000  
Attorney for Applicant

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